

News Release

New Jersey Meadowlands Commission



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Announcing The Inaugural MeadowFest: “A Celebration of the Hackensack River” Environmental Festival Slated for June 10th

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and the Meadowlands Liberty Convention and Visitors Bureau (MLCVB) will hold MeadowFest, New Jersey’s premier environmental festival celebrating the Hackensack River, on Saturday, June 10 at Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus.

MeadowFest is a day-long event featuring environmentally-oriented activities and educational programs, including ecological tours of Snake Hill, pontoon-boat cruises on the Hackensack River, hot air balloon rides, carnival type attractions and games, refreshments stands and live musical performances. For athletes, MeadowFest is introducing the Meadowlands Liberty Triathlon, an early morning event that will start at the Meadowlands Sports Complex with a ten-mile bike race, followed by a 3-kilometer row down the Hackensack River, and concluding with a 4-mile run through the Harmon Cove mixed-use complex to Laurel Hill Park.

“MeadowFest incorporates all the wonder of the Meadowlands region: The Hackensack River and its ecological splendor, the sports and business communities, and the vibrant residential life,” says Susan Bass Levin, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Commissioner and New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Chairwoman. “MeadowFest re-invents elements of our prior event, River Fest, which drew more than 10,000 people. With eco-tourism reaching new heights, we have the highest aspirations for MeadowFest and the new Meadowlands taking shape.”

Through a team of 15 “captains” a variety of governmental, educational and civic organizations throughout the region are collaborating to produce MeadowFest, says Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. “This is a regional effort that requires an enormous amount of coordination and we especially want to recognize our host, the Town of Secaucus, which donates the time and resources that make this event possible.”

“MeadowFest will be an exciting event which will provide a great day of fun and entertainment, but most importantly it will create awareness for the Hackensack River Watershed,” said Captain Bill Sheehan, the Hackensack Riverkeeper. “Just six miles from New York we have one of the world’s most impressive flyways to showcase, with a resurging population of plant and animal life.

Representatives from the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, the NJMC's Meadowlands Environment Center and their Ramapo College staff, the Hackensack Riverkeeper and the Town of Secaucus make-up the core group of event captains that are working diligently behind the scenes to assure the first year of the event is a success.

"MeadowFest's location on the Hackensack River and the outdoor activities furnish a wonderful opportunity for families to celebrate this region," said Jim Kirkos, president of the Meadowlands Liberty CVB. "With a triathlon, hot air balloon rides and a surprise musical guest, it's a complete day of entertainment for everyone."

MeadowFest is a joint venture of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and the Meadowlands Liberty Convention and Visitors Bureau (MLCVB), along with support from the Meadowland Environment Center (Ramapo College), the Hackensack Riverkeeper and local communities.

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